

REMARKS

Claims 3, 4, 6-8 and 11 are pending. Claims 1, 2, 5, 9 and 10 are canceled. Claims 3, 4 and 6-8 are amended. Claim 11 is new.

Claim Amendments

New claim 11 includes the elements of original claims 1, 2 and 5, rewritten to improve clarity and readability. Accordingly, claims 3 and 6-8 have been amended to depend from new claim 11. Additionally, claims 3, 4 and 6-8 have been amended to improve readability and to eliminate reference characters. No new matter has been added.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. §112

Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1-10 as being indefinite under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph. Claims 1, 2, 5, 9 and 10 are now canceled. The language specifically rejected in previously presented claims 1 and 2 has been revised in new claim 11 to improve clarity. Furthermore, claim 11 has generally been written to improve the clarity and readability of the language previously presented in claims 1, 2 and 5. Therefore, applicant believes that the pending claims satisfy the requirements of 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph.

Claim Rejections - 35 U.S.C. §102

Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claims 1-9 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Klein, Jr. (US 3,785,676).

Claims 1, 2, 5, 9 and 10 are canceled, and the rejection of these claims is therefore moot.

In order for anticipation to exist, a reference must teach each and every element of a claimed invention. "The identical invention must be shown in as complete detail as is contained in the... claim". *Richardson v. Suzuki Motor Co.*, 868 F.2d 1226, 1236, 9 USPQ2d 1913, 1920 (Fed. Cir. 1989). Claim 11 recites "a zone on an exterior surface of said pivot in a region of

said end of the steering column furthest from the fork, wherein said zone includes first connecting means, and wherein *said first connecting means comprises a ring slipped around the pivot and fixed to the pivot by bonding.*” (emphasis added) Contrary to the claimed assembly, the threaded zone 52 of the “ring” in Klein, which was cited by the Examiner, is a feature which is machined directly on the pivot 24. A threaded bushing is screwed onto the threads of the pivot. Therefore, Klein does not teach or suggest a ring slipped around the pivot and fixed to the pivot by bonding, as recited in claim 11.

In Klein, to enable engagement of the upper part of the pivot beyond the threaded zone 52 through the threaded bushing 70, the outer diameter of the upper part of the pivot (which is the part clamped by the bracket 30) must be smaller than the initial outer diameter of the pivot before machining the threaded zone 52. (See Fig. 3 of Klein, Jr.) Therefore, the mechanical strength of the pivot in Klein will be decreased due to the reduction in the outer diameter of the upper part of the pivot. Moreover, the necessary machining (cutting) of the upper part of the pivot is time consuming. In the invention as claimed, which employs a ring slipped around the pivot and fixed to the pivot by bonding, the pivot may be a tube with a cylindrical outer surface having no machined parts. Thus, the claimed invention addresses the noted shortcomings of the Klein, Jr. device.

For the reasons provided above, Klein Jr. does not anticipate or render obvious the claimed invention. Claims 3, 4 and 6-8 depend from claim 11, and are therefore not anticipated or rendered obvious by Klein Jr.

Conclusion

In view of the above amendment, applicant believes the pending application is in condition for allowance.

If a fee is due, please charge our Deposit Account No. 22-0185, under Order No. 21029-00299-US1 from which the undersigned is authorized to draw.

Application No. 10/538,324
Amendment dated January 22, 2007
Reply to Office Action of September 22, 2006

Docket No.: 21029-00299-US1

Dated: January 22, 2007

Respectfully submitted,

Electronic signature: /Brian J. Hairston/
Brian J. Hairston
Registration No.: 46,750
CONNOLLY BOVE LODGE & HUTZ LLP
1990 M Street, N.W., Suite 800
Washington, DC 20036
(202) 331-7111
(Fax)
Attorney for Applicant